

Options for casting your ballot in the local Council election

There are a number of options for residents and non-resident ratepayers to vote in the election of Coonamble Shire Council.

If you will be in the Coonamble Local Government Area on election day, Saturday, 4 December, you can vote in person at Coonamble High School or Gulargambone Central School.

If you will not be in the Coonamble Local Government Area on election day, you can cast a pre-poll vote, apply for a postal vote

or register for iVote. Pre-poll voting will be available in the old Visitor Information Centre building (next to Coonamble Library) from 22 November.

Forms to apply for a postal vote are available at the Coonamble Shire Council Administration Office. You can also apply online at the NSW Electoral Commission website, and register for iVote there too: <https://tinyurl.com/CastingMyBallot> (scroll down to the 'Voting before election day' tab).

IN PERSON ON 4 DECEMBER

POSTAL VOTE

PRE-POLL FROM 22 NOVEMBER

iVOTE FROM 22 NOVEMBER

Prepare your Madame Flute picnic hamper

Get family and friends together on the evening of Saturday, 4 December, for a bring-your-own picnic and refreshments on the lawn in front of the sheep pavilion at Coonamble Showground.

International artist Jane Rutter-Madame Flute-will perform, making it a world-class experience.

Jane Rutter regularly performs at the Sydney

Opera House and theatres and cabaret venues around Europe.

Having served as Coonamble's Australia Day Ambassador last year, she offered to return to give people of the region the opportunity to experience a concert usually reserved for city audiences.

Tickets are on sale at www.123tix.com.au at a cost of \$35 per person, with gates opening at 6pm for a 7.30pm start.



Spread your rug out and enjoy a picnic on the lawns at Coonamble Showground.

Learn-to-swim vouchers to be released

Coonamble families may be eligible for the latest round of swimming vouchers from Service NSW.

Service NSW organises the First Lap voucher program, providing \$100 vouchers for parents, guardians and carers of children aged 3-6 years (who are not enrolled in school) to contribute towards the cost of swimming lessons.

The program has been expanded for the 2021-22 financial year to include children in kindergarten in 2021 and children starting

kindergarten in 2022, who missed out on vital water safety education during their pre-school years due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The vouchers can be used with an approved First Lap provider and will be available through the Service NSW website from 1 December 2021.

By making swimming and water safety education more accessible for families, the First Lap program aims to help keep NSW children healthy, happy, and safe in and around the water.

December 11 Christmas Party

Saturday, December 11, has been set as the date for the Coonamble Christmas Street Party.

Local businesses are asked to follow Council's website and Facebook pages for updates on times and opportunities for involvement. Castlereagh Street will be closed between Aberford and Tooloon Streets from 9am to noon on the day. Stall holders can register online at www.tinyurl.com/XmasStall.

The Coonamble Chamber of Commerce Buy Local major prize winner will also be drawn on the day.

MARK THESE DATES

4 December – Local Government election day (8am to 6pm), Coonamble High School, Gulargambone Central School.

4 December – Madame Flute concert, Coonamble Showground.

11 December – Coonamble Christmas Street Party.

25 December–3 January – Council facilities closed (pools closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day only).

11 January – Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Council in Coonamble to elect new Mayor and Deputy Mayor and appoint committee members. (May be brought forward if election results are declared in early December.)

Council's Christmas closure

The Christmas closure of Council's Administration Office, libraries, Service NSW agency, the Information and Exhibition Centre, depots and quarry will be from Christmas Day, Saturday, 25 December, through to and including Monday, 3 January, 2022.

All services will resume for regular hours of business on Tuesday, 4 January.

Coonamble and Gulargambone Pools will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day and resume regular hours of operation from Monday, 27 December.

Staff will be on-call for emergencies. See the numbers below.

Emergency contacts:

Water & Sewerage 0428 217 420

Other Emergencies 0458 271 881

Ranger 0427 255 881

Website for all details:

www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au

Opportunity for public comment on draft policies and plans

Members of the public have the opportunity to comment on two draft policies following their conditional approval by Council at its November meeting.

The draft documents on exhibition are:

- An update to the Public Art Policy.
- A Gates and Stock Grids on Public Roads Policy.

Members of the public have 42 days (six weeks) from the start of exhibition to make a submission regarding a draft policy.

Public Art

The purpose of the Public Art Policy is to provide a clear and comprehensive framework for the development of public art that ensures efficiency, transparency and equity in the public art selection process.

Gates and Stock Grids

The Gates and Stock Grids on Public Roads

Policy outlines when Council will allow the installation of a gate or stock grid on a public road and provide guidance for the design, installation and maintenance for gates and stock grids on public roads.

It will also spell out the responsibilities of the permit holder and the conditions applicable to any approval given.

Electronic copies of both draft policies are available on Council's website (search 'Public Exhibition'). Printed copies are available for review at Council's Administration Office in Coonamble or at the libraries in Coonamble and Gulargambone, and at the Quambone Store.

You can make a submission on either draft policy online on Council's 'Public Exhibition' web page, by email to council@coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au or in writing to the General Manager, PO Box 249, Coonamble NSW 2829.



Behind the scenes—capturing footage of waterskiing on the Warrena Creek for a future tourism promotional campaign.

Images and video captured for promotional campaign

Another stage in the development of a tourism promotional campaign is nearing completion, with photographs and videos captured earlier this month.

The Local Government Areas of Coonamble, Gilgandra and Warrumbungle are collaborating in the development of a tourism hub.

Enigma—an agency specialising in this field of promotions—visited Coonamble during November to record video and still photographs of the area.

The intent is to use these materials to create media content for distribution in various target markets, including Greater Sydney, Newcastle, the Central Coast and the Illawarra.

The three Council areas seek to build on each other's tourism offerings so visitors can plan a 'round trip' through the localities, seeing the combined area as a destination in its own right, rather than one to pass through on the way to 'elsewhere'.

Economic figures show that the more a visitor can be encouraged to stay overnight in an area, the more dollars they inject into the local economy.

Community consultation during the development of the Coonamble Shire Masterplan showed strong support for Council to boost the local tourism industry to lessen the area's reliance on agriculture and the fluctuations it experiences through cycles of droughts and floods.

Coonamble Sportsground improvements continue



The concrete base of the new, artificial cricket pitch in the centre of Coonamble Sportsground has been poured to allow the two playing fields at the site to be levelled and re-turfed.

The work is funded through a \$1 million grant under the Federal Government's

Drought Communities Program, which has already funded grandstand renovations and the new flood lighting.

Further works include levelling of the ground in the north-eastern corner of the sportsground, installation of irrigation, re-turfing and replacement of the internal fence.

Who are you nominating for an Australia Day award?

Who will you nominate for recognition in the Australia Day 2022 Awards?

Who has helped the community through a creative and resilient response to the COVID-19 pandemic? In those few months when sporting activity was allowed, who showed great talent?

Is there a person or organisation in the Local Government Area who stands out for their contributions to the community or their achievement in sport during 2021?

You can nominate people and organisations now for the Australia Day 2022 Awards.

We are fortunate to live in a community

where people go above and beyond every day, generously dedicating their time to improving the lives of others.

The Australia Day Awards are an excellent way to recognise and applaud the work of these people that make our area a great place to live, work and visit.

Award categories are:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year (aged under 26 years on 26 January 2022)
- Community Group of the Year (for outstanding events or achievements in 2021)
- Sportsperson of the Year (for outstanding

achievement in sport, aged 18 and over)

- Junior Sportsperson of the Year (for outstanding achievement in sport, aged under 18 years on 26 January 2022)

Award nomination forms can be completed online at Council's website and Facebook page or as a printed form available at Council's Administration Offices, at the libraries in Coonamble and Gulargambone and at Quambone Store.

Nominations for the 2022 awards close at 4.30pm on Wednesday, 5 January 2022. Recipients will be announced at the Australia Day celebrations in Coonamble on 26 January 2022.